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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Under the Tunney Act, I wish to comment on the proposed Microsoft settlement. As a computer professional, in the field for over 16 years, I have had the unique opportunity to watch the industry mature from novelty and hobby machines, to become a ubiquitous part of business. Much of our countries growth in the last decade is solidly attributable to computers. Sadly, I have also seen a trend of anti-competitive practices by a few corporations. I have been affected first hand by Microsoft's criminal business practices. When the anti-trust suit against Microsoft was proven, I believed that Microsoft would forced by law to end their unfair practices. However, the settlement reached by the government does little to address Microsoft's near monopoly powers. Specifically I find issue with the following specific points of the settlement.

On the issue of middleware replacement. The definition of "middleware" is so narrow, that it is not applicable to future version of Microsoft's operating systems.

On the issue of restricting anti-competitive practices. Microsoft has continued to use restrictive licensing to prevent outside developers, specifically Open Source developers, from either creating software for Windows, or allowing for Windows software to run on another operating system. This is the key to Microsoft's ability to bend the market to it's whim. And the settlement proposed does nothing at all to address these issues.

Microsoft continues its practice of harming competitors. Microsoft has branched into Personal Video Recorders, Cell Phone Operating Systems, Home Automation, Home Entertainment Consoles, Cell Phone Applications, Embedded Operating Systems and many other areas. Each of these niches is already developed, and competing in a free market. There are no new restrictions on Microsoft's ability to conduct business, and I believe that Microsoft will eventually dominate and control these and many other emerging markets, based on their past behavior.

I urge the government to take a fresh look at Microsoft, and consider carefully the terms of this settlement. I believe after due consideration and review, that the terms of the proposed settlement will be found to be unsound.